IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20: CANCEL

21. (Withdrawn) A method for managing a plurality of messages, wherein each of the plurality of messages comprises a plurality of properties, and each property corresponds to a defined portion of a character string that comprises the message, the method comprising:

identifying a message identifier for each of the plurality of messages;

for any given message in the plurality of messages:

identifying an instance of a property contained in the message;

for each identified instance:

determining whether the identified instance of the property in that message is stored in a first data structure, and

if the identified instance of the property is new so as to not exist in the first data structure, the method further comprises,

storing the identified instance in the first data structure, and

associating the identified instance with a message identifier for that message;

else if the identified instance already exists in the first data structure, the method further comprises,

associating the message identifier for that message with the identified instance that exists in the first data structure.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying an instance of a property in the message includes identifying text contained in one or more standardized fields of that message.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more standardized fields include a field selected from a group consisting of a recipient field, a sender field, a copied recipient field, a message subject field, and a blind copied recipient field.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein identifying text contained in one or more standardized fields of that message includes identifying one or more fields defined by the RFC 822 standard.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying an instance of a property in the message includes identifying a message header as the instance of the property of that message.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying an instance of a property in the message includes identifying a message text as the instance of the property of that message.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying an instance of a property in the message includes identifying an attachment as the instance of the property of that message.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein identifying an attachment as the instance of the property of that message includes identifying a name of the attachment.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein identifying an attachment as the instance of that property of that message includes identifying a type of the attachment.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, wherein identifying an attachment as the instance of that property of that message includes identifying information about the attachment.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30, wherein the information about the attachment includes information selected from a group of information consisting of a size of the attachment and a date of the attachment.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying an instance of a property in the

message includes identifying at least one of a sender or recipient as the instance of the property of that message.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the method is performed on a client computer system.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the method is performed on a combination of a client and server system.

35. (Withdrawn) A system for managing a plurality of messages, said system comprising:

a first data structure that stores a plurality of information item, wherein the information items are each independent of the plurality of messages; and

one or more modules that are operable to link an instance of a first message to a first set of two or more information items in the plurality of information items stored in the first data structure.

36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein the first set of information items include one or more topic identifiers.

37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, wherein the one or more topic identifiers are specified by an input from one or more users.

38. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein the first set of information items include one or more identifiers of folders, the one or more folders being identified from an input of a user of the system.

39. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising a second data structure that stores linkage data that links each of the information items with one or more messages in the plurality of messages, wherein the one or more modules are operable to link the instance of the first message to the first set of information items using the first data structure and the second data structure.

40. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein the linkage data is at least in part based on one or more inputs from one or more users of the system.

41. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, further comprising a third data structure that stores at least one of a (i) a plurality of messages, or (ii) links to a plurality of messages, wherein the plurality of messages includes the first message, and wherein the one or more modules are operable to link the instance of the first message to the first set of information items using the third data structure.

42. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 41, wherein the one or more modules are operable to link an instance of any message in the plurality of information items with a designated information item.

43. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein the one or more modules are configured to:

　　receive an input from a user, the input being a text-string identifier; and

　　designate the text-string identifier as a Withdrawn topic;

　　receive input from the user identifying one or more messages in the plurality of messages; and

　　link an instance of each of the identified one or more message in the plurality of messages with the Withdrawn topic.

44. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, wherein the one or more modules are configured to:

　　receive an input from a user, the input being a text-string identifier; and

　　identify an existing topic that matches the text-string identifier, wherein the existing topic is stored in the first data structure as one of the plurality of information items;

　　receive input from the user identifying one or more messages in the plurality of

messages; and

link an instance of each of the identified one or more message in the plurality of messages with the identified topic.

45. (Withdrawn) A system for managing a plurality of messages which are sent and/or received by one or more correspondents, said system comprising:

one or more data structures that store data representing (i) unique instances of individual messages in the plurality of messages; (ii) correspondent records, including information related to the one or more correspondents of the system; (iii) message-correspondent information that links each unique instance of the individual messages with one or more correspondents of that message;

one or more modules that are operable to analyze each of the plurality of messages in order to (i) identify the unique instances of the individual messages in the plurality of messages, and (ii) generate the message-correspondent information; and

wherein the one or more modules cause the identified unique instances of the individual messages and the generated message-correspondent information to be stored in the one or more data structures.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 45, wherein the one or more data structures are each relational.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46, wherein the one or more data structures include a first data structure that stores the unique instances of individual messages in the plurality of messages, a second data structure that stores the correspondent records, and a third data structure that stores the message-correspondent information.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 47, wherein the first data structure corresponds to a first set of one or more tables, the second data structure corresponds to a second set of one or more tables, and the third data structure corresponds to a third set of one or more tables.

49. (New) A method for receiving e-mails, each of said e-mails including a header and a

message body, the method comprising:

separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties of an e-mail, wherein said plurality of properties are contained in at least one of said header or said message body;

determining whether an instance of at least a first property in the plurality of properties is stored in a corresponding data structure;

for when the instance of the first property is determined as not being stored in the corresponding data structure, storing said identified instance in a corresponding data structure, and linking the identified instance with an identifier of the e-mail;

for when the instance of the first property is determined as being stored in the corresponding data structure, linking the stored and identified instance with the identifier of the e-mail;

wherein determining whether the instance of the first property includes separating information contained in at least one of said header or message body of the e-mail;

wherein each of linking the identified instance and linking the stored and identified instance includes using the instance of the first property in at least one of the header or the message body; and

using one or more relationship fields to store information to identify said link between the instance of the first property and the identifier of the e-mail.

50.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein using the one or more relationship fields includes using a plurality of tables.

51.   (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising linking at least one of the instance of the first property with multiple identifiers of emails.

52.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein using a plurality of tables includes using at least a first table to store information about the first property, wherein the first property identifies one or more correspondents of the e-mail.

53.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein each of the plurality of properties, including at least the first property, corresponds to an e-mail property selected from a group consisting of a recipient field, a sender field, a copied recipient field, a message subject field, and a blind copied recipient field.

54.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein using a plurality of tables includes using a table to store information for linking the message body to the one or more correspondents.

55.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-email includes separating and identifying text contained in one or more standardized fields of that e-mail.

56.   (New) The method of claim 55, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-email includes separating and identifying one or more fields defined by the RFC 822 standard.

57.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-mail includes separating and identifying an e-mail header as the instance of the property of that e-mail.

58.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-mail includes separating and identifying an attachment or an attachment identifier.

59.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-email includes identifying information about an attachment of the e-mail.

60.   (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the information about the attachment includes a name of the attachment.

61.   (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the information about the attachment includes a file type of the attachment.

62.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties in an e-mail includes identifying at least one of a sender or recipient as the instance of the property of that message.

63.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the method is performed on a client computer system.

64.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the method is performed on a combination of a client and a server system.

65.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein prior to separating and identifying an instance of each of a plurality of properties of an e-mail, the method further comprising receiving the e-mail at an Internet location, and performing at least a portion of the method on a server associated with the Internet location.